



CSJ Ministries Inc. Board of Directors
Thursday, February 20, 2024; 4:00-6 PM
Via Zoom

DRAFT

In Attendance: Kevin Berg; Marjie Blevins; Comfort Dondo; Anita S. Duckor, CSJ-C; Karen Gervais; Stacy Jacobson; Steve Kenney; Mary Lydon; Brian Mallaro; Brian Mullen; Susan Oeffling, CSJ; Colleen O'Malley, CSJ; Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ; Joel Rainville; Mark Richards; Gabrielle Rohde; Kris Smyth; Fr. Larry Snyder; Jill Underdahl, CSJ; Anne Weyandt; Jean Wincek, CSJ

Staff: Cheryl Behrent; Matt Halley; Cindy Kaiser; Tiffany Melnik; Lacy Sietsema

Excused Absences: Maya Missaghi; Angela Schreiber, CSJ

Special Guests: Meg Reid & Michael Anderson – Tangelo Tree Consulting

The Accola Board of Directors meeting convened in-person and via Zoom on Thursday, February 20, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m.

DEI Statement: Read by Kevin.

Spiritual Centering: Led by Jill Underdahl, CSJ, Adele O'Sullivan, CSJ, and Fr. Larry Snyder.

Minutes: The December Board minutes were reviewed. Lacy will update the logo. With this change, all present members voted to approve the minutes.

President's Report

Matt reported that this Board meeting will address the future of Accola and Wisdom Ways, and sustainability.

Matt discussed how the residents of Sarah's and the students of Learning In Style School (LIS) are feeling during the current political climate. LIS recently hosted its annual global potluck and the attendance was good. Matt updated the Board on steps being taken to ensure the continued safety of residents and students.

Matt presented the Board with a statement of support for Accola staff. Matt stated that staff are trained and do know what to look for when presented with legal documents should ICE agents attempt to enter Sarah's or Learning In Style School. Residents and students have been given "Know Your Rights" presentations. The Board reviewed the statement of support. All present members voted to approve the statement of support for Accola staff.

Advancement – Board Member Resources and Engagement

Joel reported that Board members have access to fundraising materials on the Board Portal.

Update on Sustainability Strategy Planning

The consultants from Tangelo Tree presented the Board with an update on the sustainability project. This project includes both Accola staff and some Board members. A financial analysis has been conducted, and mission impact criteria have been identified. Kevin reported that there is great involvement and enthusiasm for this project. Steve stated that he is impressed by the amount of collaboration.

Meg reviewed the priority-focused areas of sustainability: transformational and incremental/in-process. There was a discussion about community partnerships and respecting the ability of communities to develop their own beliefs and solutions.

Meg has requested feedback on this presentation regarding things that may be missing or strengthened. Matt encouraged Board members to think about additional approaches to make Accola a vital asset.

Recess: The Board took a recess at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 5:31 p.m.

Recommendation from Programs & Opportunities Committee: Wisdom Ways/Board Discussion

Matt reported that the Wisdom Ways discussion will take place over a period of two meetings. Sarah's... an Oasis for Women, Learning In Style School, and Wisdom Ways were previously tied to the Province but are now part of Accola. Accola continues to be connected to the Province by an affiliation through founding. The Province continues to provide \$1 million a year to Accola for a duration of five years.

Wisdom Ways is a part of Accola. Accola is now a secular organization with its own 501(c)(3). The Programs and Opportunities Committee has been reviewing how Wisdom Ways fits in with Accola. Anne reviewed the research process of the Programs and Opportunities Committee and the data collected by SISU Consulting. Sustainability must align with Accola's mission, vision, and values. Anne added that the committee has been grappling with defining something that is fundamentally at the heart of who we are as individuals and as an organization.

The research process involved multiple interviews and focus groups, readings, and an environmental scan. Anne stressed that it was very important to the committee that there was an open-door policy for those in the community who wanted to be heard regarding Wisdom Ways. Anne reviewed specific findings and strongly encouraged the Board to reflect on the Wisdom Ways recommendation. Kevin stated that this discussion will be revisited at the Board Education Session in March. Questions and feedback can be directed to Anne or Matt.

Executive Session: There was no Executive Session.

Board Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lacy Sietsema, Accola